

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
H-01 L-03 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /073 W
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R 242045Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3695
AMEMBASSY LISBON
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1102

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, DR, PORT
SUB: SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL VISIT TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

REF: A) LISBON 1407, B) 77 SANTO DOMINGO 6624 (NOTAL),

1. IN FEBRUARY 22 RADIO BROADCAST, PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO (PRD) SECRETARY GENERAL PENA GOMEZ ANNOUNCED VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER SOARES AND SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) DELEGATION (REF A) TO DR MARCH 17-20. PENA SAID SOARES WOULD MEET WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND VISIT CIBAO, COUNTRY'S MAIN AGRICULTURAL REGION. HE IS QUOTED IN PRESS AS SAYING BALAGUER HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOARES TO BE ACCORDED HONORS OF VISITING CHIEF OF STATE. SI VISIT WOULD ALSO BE OCCASION FOR SECOND SEMINAR OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH PRD. (ATMOSPHERICS OF FIRST SOLIDARITY SEMINAR LAST OCTOBER REPORTED REF B).

2. IN COURSE OF ROUTINE CONTACTS FEBRUARY 23 AND 24 UNDER-SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT, THOUGH AWARE OF PENA'S ANNOUNCEMENT, GOVERNMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF VISIT, AND THAT SI MEMBERS HAD NOT EVEN YET REQUESTED VISAS. PRD INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CHIEF CLARIFIED TO EMBASSY THAT BALAGUER "OFFER" DATES BACK TO PRD DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT LAST OCTOBER, WHEN IT APPEARED SOARES WOULD ATTEND FIRST SOLIDARITY SEMINAR.

3. GIVEN INCREASINGLY INTENSE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE HERE (CAMPAIGN FOR MAY 16 NATIONAL ELECTIONS OFFICIALLY STARTED FEB 15), LOCAL SENSITIVITIES TO FOREIGN INTER-FERENCE, AND USG FREQUENTLY-STATED POLICY OF NEUTRALITY IN UPCOMING CONTEST, EMBASSY FEELS IT WOULD NOT BE IN BEST US INTEREST FOR EMBASSY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOARES VISIT, INCLUDING PASSING ON OF MATEUS' ASSURANCES. IN RECENT MONTHS, BOTH GOVERNMENT REFORMIST PARTY AND PRD HAVE SOUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE FOREIGN SUPPORT (PARTICULARLY FROM US, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE) IN ELECTIONS, WHILE CRITICIZING EACH OTHER FOR INVITING "FOREIGN INTERVENTION" IN DOMINICAN AFFAIRS.

4. BALAGUER WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TREAT SOARES WITH ALL DUE RESPECT AND COURTESIES. JUST AS PRD WILL ATTEMPT TO USE SOARES VISIT FOR POLITICAL PROFIT, BALAGUER ALSO MAY WELL TRY TO EXPLOIT ANY MEETINGS WITH SOARES FOR HIS OWN POLITICAL ENDS. SOARES WILL FIND HIMSELF IN DELICATE SITUATION HERE, TRYING TO BALANCE OFF PRIVATE VISIT TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH PRD WITH HIS PUBLIC POSITION AS VISITING PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT LEADER.

5. PRD HAS INFORMED US THAT NO INVITATIONS HAD YET GONE OUT TO AMERICANS FOR NEW SOLIDARITY SEMINAR, BUT PARTY MAY WELL SEND INVITATIONS TO CONGRESSMAN DONAL FRAZER, BEN STEPHANSKY, AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM THEY

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HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT. THEY PROMISED TO KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF ATTENDANCE OF AMERICANS AT SEMINAR.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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